

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Withdrawn Claims 14-24 have been canceled without prejudice to Applicants' right to reintroduce the claims in the present application or in a divisional patent application.

A new set of Claims 63-86 is submitted. Independent Claim 63 is essentially a combination of Claims 1 and 12 but wherein polyimide has been deleted from the group of polymers of which the polymer coating essentially consists. Bosma '077 discloses a polymer coating consisting of polyimide whereas the listed coating materials sets forth polymers other than polyimide. Accordingly, Claims 63 and the claims dependent thereon are not met by Bosma '077.

The rejection of the claims as unpatentable over Bosma under 35 U.S.C. 103 is traversed and it is requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw such rejections for the reasons set forth below.

The object of Bosma '077 is to provide a retardation layer that compensates for the optical effects that occur in display cells, whereas in the present invention the intent is to have the optical retardation of the glass-plastic composite film be as low as possible in order to allow the glass-plastic composite films to be used in LCD applications which utilize double refraction of the liquid crystal. Specifically, the low retardation value of less than 20 nm is necessary to have as low as possible double refraction (see page 5, lines 14-29).

Bosma '077 makes the statement that STN retardation layers are superior compared to uniaxially stretched polymer films (column 1, lines 17-18). It is well known to a person skilled in the art that when a polymer film is uniaxially stretched a high double refraction, and therefore a high retardation, occurs which is normally more than 2000 nm. This makes it clear that the retardation layers of which Bosma '077 is concerned have much higher values than the values called for in the independent claims of the present application. Rather than bringing a high retardation value into the STN display, the present application suggests just the opposite.

With regard to Claims 9 and 45, the transmission of the display disclosed by Bosma '077 will in all cases be lower than 84% as advised by the Applicants, through their German patent counsel. The orientation layer in Bosma '077 can be either a polyamid or a polyimid. As is apparent from the transmission curve submitted herewith,

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the transmission of a polyamid layer is less than about 80% and the Applicants thereby conclude that the transmission of the layer system (glass substrate, orientation layer, retardation layer) disclosed in Bosma '077 is always smaller than 90%. On the other hand, the transmission of a substrate according to the present invention is greater than 90%. Bosma '077 provides no disclosure or suggestion of how a person skilled in the art should proceed to reach transmission values greater than 90%.

With regard to the waviness and roughness values set forth in a number of the dependent claims, such as Claims 2 and 3, because the retardation layer according to Bosma '077 is a twisted nematic liquid crystal and since a liquid crystal polymer is more fluid than a solid, waviness and roughness cannot be measured. The thin layers according to the present invention are polymer layers that are self-supporting and therefore waviness and roughness values can be measured.

For the reasons set forth above, it is submitted that the claims would not be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. 103 and it is requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejections and pass the application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enc. Transmission Curve

CERTIFICATION OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on: August 27, 2004

JOHN F. HOFFMAN, REG. NO. 26,280

Name of Registered Representative

Signature

August 27, 2004

Date